

## **SAFETY AWARENESS ABOARD RESEARCH VESSEL SHEARWATER**

In preparation for your trip aboard R/V SHEARWATER, please review the following introductory comments regarding safety and the use of personal protective equipment aboard the vessel. If you have any questions about the following information, it is important that you address those questions with your Project Lead and SHEARWATER's Operations Coordinator, LTJG Kate Peet, *prior to* the day of departure.

### General Safety Considerations

Safety considerations aboard a vessel at sea are entirely different from those encountered at home or in the “average” workplace. Although SHEARWATER is typically quite stable, it is important to note that the way in which any vessel behaves at sea can be, at times, unpredictable. You should maintain a secure hold on the vessel with at least one hand at all times, especially when moving about the vessel. When transiting from the harbor to your working grounds and later back to the harbor, it is best practice to remain seated for as much of the transit as possible. If you think you may be prone to sea-sickness, you might want to consider taking over-the-counter motion sickness medication, as directed by the manufacturer. Check the directions carefully, as many motion sickness medications are most effective when taken the *day before* departure.

### Safety Briefing

Prior to departure, you will be required to attend a complete safety briefing with a vessel crewmember, to orient you to the layout of the vessel and the safety equipment carried aboard. The briefing will also address those safety requirements that are specific to your planned operations. Your undivided attention is required during this briefing, as this will be an appropriate time to ask questions or communicate any last-minute concerns that you may have regarding your trip.

### Personal Protective Equipment

The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required whenever you are involved with operations that are being conducted aboard SHEARWATER. The safety briefing provided at the start of your trip will include information on the specific safety equipment requirements for your planned mission(s). The following non-negotiable safety equipment rules apply to all operations, at all times.

- 1) Close-toed shoes are required on all exterior weather decks, at all times. Dive booties are allowed during dive operations, but close-toed shoes should be donned as soon after the completion of operations as possible. In enforcing this requirement, vessel crewmembers will be looking for shoes that cover the entire foot, that are positively secured about the heel, and that have flat, rubber soles. Although many sandals, water shoes, and soft-sided, slip-on shoes are close-toed and do cover the entire foot, they afford very little protection from falling heavy objects and therefore do not satisfy this requirement.

- 2) Close-toed shoes (as defined in #1 above), hardhats, and work vests are required during all crane, winch or A-Frame operations. This equipment is required even if you are not participating directly, but remain in the vicinity of those operations. Boots or steel-toed boots are strongly recommended. Close-toed shoes are also required during anchor deployment and recovery operations, particularly when using the windlass. Open-toed shoes are strictly prohibited during all on-deck operations.
- 3) Work vests are required whenever working on the dive step, tending divers, or participating in skiff operations. If you are spending time on the weather decks seeking relief from sea-sickness, you must wear a work vest or Personal Flotation Device (PFD).
- 4) Hearing protection is required whenever noise levels exceed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) 8-hour Time Weighted Average (TWA) for exposure to noise(s) over 80 Decibels. (Common, household devices that produce comparable noise levels include doorbells, ringing telephones, and coffee grinders.) The crew will provide specific guidance on those locations where hearing protection is necessary.

PPE such as hardhats, work vests, hearing protection, work gloves, safety glasses (both indoor and outdoor), and steel-toed rubber boots is carried aboard the vessel, and all embarked personnel will have access to PPE as necessary. Crewmembers will direct you to the locations in which PPE is stored as appropriate. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) strongly recommends, however, that you identify the safety requirements specific to your mission(s) and consider purchasing any required specialized equipment prior to departure. Most people are both safer and more comfortable in gear that fits properly.

To confirm that you have reviewed and understand these safety considerations prior to departure, please click on the link below to e-mail your **name, project title, and project date(s)** to SHEARWATER'S Operations Coordinator, LTJG Kate Peet. Please feel free to include any safety-related questions that you may have in the body of your e-mail message. Thank you for helping us to maintain safer, more efficient operations aboard SHEARWATER, and we look forward to welcoming you aboard!

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